

CLAIMS

1. A testing system comprising:

back-end software for interacting with a subject database application; and

a common user-interface for controlling the interaction of the back-end software
5 with the subject database application, the user-interface being independent of the
subject database application.
2. The testing system of claim 1, wherein the common user-interface comprises an API
interface.
3. The testing system of claim 2, wherein the API interface comprises a C language
10 interface.
4. The testing system of claim 1, wherein the common user-interface comprises a
command line interface.
5. The testing system of claim 1, wherein the common user-interface comprises a
graphical-user interface.
- 15 6. The testing system of claim 1, wherein the back-end software includes instructions
for causing creation of a test database using a particular subject database application.
7. The testing system of claim 6, wherein the back-end software includes instructions
for populating the test database with test data.
8. The testing system of claim 6, wherein the back-end software includes instructions
20 for reading test data from a test database.
9. The testing system of claim 7, wherein the back-end software comprises instructions
for comparing the test database with a copy of the test database.
10. The testing system of claim 9, wherein the instructions for comparing the test
database comprise instructions for

25 ascertaining instructions used for populating the test database with test data, and

verifying the integrity of the copy of the test database on the basis of the populating instructions,

whereby the test database need not be available to verify the copy of the test database.

- 5 **11.** The testing system of claim 7, wherein the back-end software includes instructions for causing a selected portion of the test database to be compared with a copy of the test database.
- 12.** A method for testing operation of a test subject with any one of a plurality of subject database applications, the method comprising:
 - 10 selecting a subject database application;
 - providing back-end software for causing the test subject to interact with the selected subject database application; and
 - providing a common user-interface for controlling the back-end software, the user-interface being independent of the selected subject database application.
- 15 **13.** The method of claim 12, wherein providing a common user-interface comprises providing an API interface.
- 14.** The method of claim 13, wherein providing a common user-interface comprises providing a C language interface.
- 15.** The method of claim 12, wherein providing a common user-interface comprises
 - 20 providing a command line interface.
- 16.** The method of claim 12, wherein providing a common user-interface comprises providing a graphical-user interface.
- 17.** The method of claim 12, wherein providing the back-end software comprises providing instructions for causing creation of a test database using a particular subject
 - 25 database application.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein providing the back-end software comprises providing instructions for populating the test database with test data.
19. The method of claim 17, wherein providing the back-end software comprises providing instructions for reading test data from a test database.
- 5 20. The method of claim 18, wherein providing the back-end software comprises providing instructions for comparing the test database with a copy of the test database.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein providing instructions for comparing the test database with a copy of the test database comprises providing instructions for
 - 10 ascertaining a procedure used for populating the test database with test data, and
 - verifying the integrity of the copy of the test database on the basis of the procedure,
 - whereby the copy of the test database is verifiable while the test database is unavailable.
- 15 22. The method of claim 18, wherein providing the back-end software comprises providing instructions for causing a selected portion of the test database to be compared with a copy of the test database.
23. A computer-readable medium having encoded thereon software for causing a test subject to interact with one of a subject database application selected from a plurality of database applications, the software comprising:
 - 20 back-end software for causing the interaction of the test subject with the selected subject database application; and
 - a common user-interface for controlling the interaction of any one of the back-end modules, the common user-interface being independent of the subject database application.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions for providing a common user-interface comprise instructions for providing an API interface.
25. The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the instructions for providing a common user-interface comprise instructions for providing a C language interface.
- 5 26. The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions for providing a common user-interface comprise instructions for providing a command line interface.
27. The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions for providing a common user-interface comprise instructions for providing a graphical-user interface.
- 10 28. The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the back-end software comprises instructions for causing creation of a test database using a particular subject database application.
29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the instructions for causing creation of a test database comprise instructions for populating the test database with test data.
- 15 30. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the back-end software comprises instructions for reading test data from a test database.
31. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the back-end software comprises instructions for comparing the test database with a copy of the test database.
- 20 32. The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the back-end software comprises instructions for comparing the test database with a copy of the test database by
- ascertaining a procedure used for populating the test database with test data, and
- verifying the integrity of the copy of the test database on the basis of the identified
- 25 procedure,

whereby the copy of the test database is verifiable while test database is unavailable.

- 33.** The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the back-end software comprises instructions for providing instructions for causing a selected portion of the test database to be compared with a copy of the test database.

- 5 **34.** A system for testing the interaction of a test subject with a subject database application, the system comprising:

database specific back-end software for interacting with a database application, and
database neutral front-end software for controlling the back-end software, the front-end software being independent of the subject database application.